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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claim in the application:

Listing of Claims

5 Claim 1. (Currently amended) A filter underdrain assembly for controlling backwash water flow in a filtration system having [from] a backwash water inlet, said filter underdrain assembly comprising a plurality of panel members forming a grid like underdrain, each panel member having a plurality of apertures, the cross-sectional area of said apertures in said panel members varying between said panel members, said apertures of said panel members being located further away from said backwash water inlet of said filtration system having a lesser cross-sectional area relative to said cross-sectional area of said apertures of said panel members closer to said backwash water inlet of said filtration system.

20 Claim 2. (Previously presented) A filter underdrain assembly as in claim 1 wherein said apertures in said panel members are elongate slots.

25 Claim 3. (Previously presented) A filter underdrain assembly as in claim 2 and further comprising an air passageway in said panel members.

30 Claim 4. (Previously presented) A filter underdrain assembly as in claim 3 wherein said panel member has upper and lower surfaces, said air passageway releasing air below said upper surface of said panel member.

35 Claim 5. (Previously presented) A filter underdrain assembly as in claim 3 wherein said air passageway releases air above said upper surface of said panel member.

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Claim 6. (Previously presented) A filter underdrain assembly as in claim 3 wherein said air passageway extends below said upper surface of said panel member, said air passageway being formed from interconnected surfaces defining sides and a bottom, said sides having perforations to allow air to escape from said air passageway below said upper surface of said panel member.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) A filter underdrain assembly as in claim 3 wherein said air passageway extends below said upper surface of said panel member, said air passageway being formed from interconnected surfaces defining sides and a bottom, said air passageway having perforations extending through said upper surface of said panel member.

Claim 8. (Withdrawn) A panel member for controlling backwash water flow from underdrain blocks of an underdrain filter assembly, said panel member having a plurality of apertures therein of predetermined cross-sectional area to allow passage of water therethrough, an attachment for mechanically positioning said panel member on said underdrain filter assembly and a sealing member to provide a substantially watertight seal between said panel member and said underdrain filter assembly.

Claim 9. (Withdrawn) A panel member as in claim 8 and further comprising an air passageway and perforations in said air passageway for releasing air under pressure from said air passageway.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) A panel member as in claim 9 wherein said perforations in said air passageway are located below the upper surface of said panel member.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn) A panel member as in claim 9 wherein said perforations in said air passageway extend through the upper surface of said panel member.

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Claim 12. (Withdrawn) A panel member as in
claim 9 wherein said perforations take the form of elongate
slots.

Claim 13. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for determining
5 backwash water flow distribution through an underdrain
assembly comprising a substantially watertight housing for
removable attachment to said underdrain assembly, a seal
between the lower end of said housing and said underdrain
and an indicator to measure the rise and fall of water
10 within said housing responsive to water introduced to said
housing from said underdrain.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn) Method of measuring
backwash water flow through a filter underdrain assembly
comprising the steps of removably attaching at least one
15 housing to said underdrain, initiating a backwash cycle and
measuring the rate of water flow from said underdrain into
said housing.

Claim 15. (Withdrawn) Method as in claim 14
wherein said rate of water flow into said housing is
20 measured by the rise of water within said housing.

Claim 16. (Withdrawn) Method as in claim 15
wherein said rise of water is measured by a float.

Claim 17. (Withdrawn) Method as in claim 14
wherein said one housing is connected nearer to a water
25 inlet for said underdrain and further comprising a second
housing connected to said underdrain at a location
relatively further from said water inlet for said
underdrain.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) Filter underdrain
30 apparatus for controlling backwash water flow
maldistribution in a filtration system [from] a backwash
water inlet, said filter underdrain apparatus comprising a
plurality of panel members assembled adjacent each other to

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form a grid like underdrain, each panel element having
multiple punched bridges [apertures] in a surface thereof,
each bridge [aperture] defining a pair of slotted water
inlet/outlets and wherein the number and/or size of said
5 punched bridges [apertures] are varied from panel member to
panel member, said panel members furthest away from said
backwash water inlet of said filtration system having a
lesser number of bridges or smaller slotted inlet/outlets
from said panel members nearer to said backwash water inlet
10 of said filtration system, said panel members being operable
to provide a substantially equalised water flow through the
underdrain assembly from said panel members.

15 Claim 19. (Currently amended) Apparatus according
to claim 18 wherein said multiple punched bridges
[apertures] are sized to substantially prevent the passage
of filter media therethrough.

20 Claim 20. (Previously submitted) Apparatus
according to claim 19 and further comprising an attachment
for attaching each of said panel members to adjacent panel
members for securing said panel member to said underdrain
assembly.

25 Claim 21. (Previously submitted) Apparatus
according to claim 20 and further comprising a seal for
forming a substantially watertight seal between a surface of
each of said panel members and said underdrain.

30 Claim 22. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to
claim 8 wherein said panel member comprises a generally
rectangular open box structure defined by a pair of parallel
side walls, a pair of parallel end walls transverse to said
side walls and a generally flat surface member communicating
with the side and end walls along one edge thereof.

Claim 23. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to
claim 22 and further comprising a perimeter flange of
generally "L" shaped cross-section extending perpendicularly

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outward from said side and end walls of said panel member, said perimeter flange having a vertical wall, said vertical wall being substantially parallel to the side and end walls of said panel member.

5 Claim 24. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to
claim 23 and further comprising a seal attached to said flat
surface of said perimeter flange.

10 Claim 25. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to
claim 24 wherein said bridges are punched into said surface
of said panel member so as to form a convex bridge in said
upper surface of said panel member, said convex bridges
being arranged in rows and columns.

15 Claim 26. (Currently amended) Filter underdrain
assembly for controlling backwash water flow from a backwash
water inlet associated with a filtration system, said filter
underdrain assembly comprising a plurality of panel members
forming a grid like underdrain, each panel member having a
plurality of apertures, the number or cross-sectional area
of said apertures varying between said panel members, said
20 panel members located further away from said backwash water
inlet of said filtration system having a lesser number or
smaller cross-sectional area of said apertures relative to
those of said panel members located closer to said backwash
water inlet of said filtration system, said panel members
25 being operable to substantially equalize water flow from
each of said panel members of said filter underdrain
assembly.

30 Claim 27. (Withdrawn) Filter underdrain panel
member for controlling backwash water flow from underdrain
blocks, said panel member having a predetermined number of
apertures therein to allow passage of water therethrough, an
attachment for mechanically positioning said panel member on
said underdrain blocks and a sealing member to provide a
substantially watertight seal between said panel member and
35 said underdrain block.

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Claim 28. (Withdrawn) Filter underdrain assembly comprising an arch extending longitudinally in said underdrain assembly from a water inlet generally located adjacent one end of said arch, said arch being positioned above said underdrain assembly and allowing water from said water inlet to enter the interior of said arch, said arch having a plurality of perforations extending the length of said arch, said plurality of perforations having larger cross-sectional area nearer said water inlet, said plurality of perforations having smaller cross-sectional area further from said water inlet.

Claim 29. (Withdrawn) Filter underdrain assembly as in claim 28 wherein said perforations are elongate slots, the number of elongate slots at said one end of said arch adjacent said water inlet being greater than the number of said elongate slots adjacent said end opposite said one end.

Claim 30. (Withdrawn) Filter underdrain assembly as in claim 29 wherein said elongate slots are punched in a plurality of plates individually removable from said arch.

Claim 31. (Withdrawn) Filter underdrain assembly as in claim 29 wherein said elongate slots are punched directly into said arch, said slots nearer said water inlet having a greater cross-sectional area than said slots further from said water inlet.

Claim 32. (Withdrawn) Filter underdrain assembly as in claim 31 wherein said elongate slots are generally horizontal.

Claim 33. (Withdrawn) Filter underdrain assembly as in claim 31 wherein said elongate slots are generally vertical.

Claim 34. (Withdrawn) Filter underdrain

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assembly as in claim 28 and further considering an air passageway in said arch.

Claim 35. (Withdrawn) Method of equalizing backwash water flow in a filter underdrain assembly having a
5 water inlet and a plurality of blocks located relatively closer and relatively further from said water inlet, said plurality of blocks having an upper surface and a water passageway, holes extending between said water passageway and said upper surface, said method comprising blocking a
10 predetermined number of said holes in a specific number of said blocks such that the quantity of water flowing from said upper surface of said blocks located relatively closer to said water inlet is substantially similar to said quantity of water flowing from said blocks located
15 relatively further from said water inlet.

Claim 36. (Withdrawn) Method as in claim 35 and further comprising positioning panel members over said upper surface of said blocks.

20 Claim 37. (Withdrawn) Method as in claim 36 and further comprising apertures in said panel members.

Claim 38. (Withdrawn) Method as in claim 37 wherein said apertures are elongate slots.

25 Claim 39. (Withdrawn) Method as in claim 37 wherein the cross-sectional area of all said apertures in each of said panel members is substantially equal.